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DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--

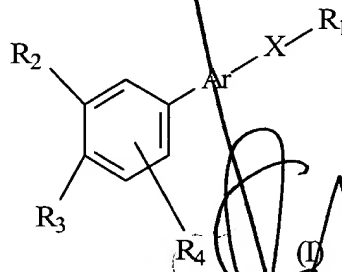
IN THE CLAIMS

Page 62, line 1, please delete "CLAIMS" and insert:

--WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:--

Please cancel Claims 1-11, and add Claims 12-32 as follows:

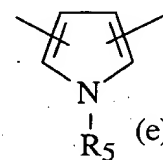
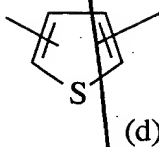
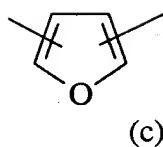
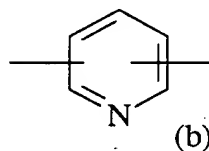
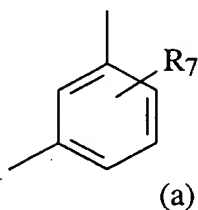
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- 12. A bicyclic aromatic compound, having the general formula (I):



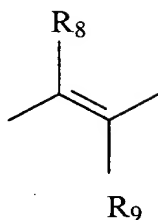
wherein,

- R<sub>1</sub> represents
- (i) the -CH<sub>3</sub> radical
  - (ii) the radical -CH<sub>2</sub>OR<sub>5</sub>, or
  - (iii) the radical -COR<sub>6</sub>

- Ar is a radical of a formula selected from formulae (a) - (e):



- X represents



or



- R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub>, which may be identical or different, represent

(i) a hydrogen atom,

(ii) an alkyl radical having at least 3 carbon atoms, among which the

carbon attached to the phenyl radical is substituted with at least two carbon atoms,

(iii) a radical  $-OR_5$ ,

(iv) a radical  $-SR_5$ ,

with the proviso that  $R_2$  and  $R_3$ , taken together, may form with the adjacent aromatic ring a 5- or 6-membered ring optionally substituted with methyl groups and/or optionally interrupted by an oxygen or sulphur atom,

with the further proviso that  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  cannot at the same time have the meanings (i), (iii) and (iv),

-  $R_4$  and  $R_7$ , which may be identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms or a radical  $-OR_5$ ,

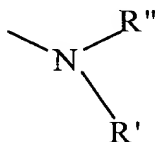
-  $R_5$  represents a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl radical or a radical  $-COR_{10}$

-  $R_6$  represents:

(a) a hydrogen atom

(b) a lower alkyl radical

(c) a radical of formula:



or (d) a radical  $-OR_{11}$

-  $R_8$  and  $R_9$ , which may be identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom or a lower alkyl radical,

-  $R_{10}$  represents a lower alkyl radical,

-  $R_{11}$  represents a hydrogen atom, a linear or branched alkyl radical having from 1 to 20 carbon atoms, and alkenyl radical, a mono- or polyhydroxyalkyl radical, an optionally substituted aryl or aralkyl radical, a sugar residue or an amino acid or peptide residue,

-  $R'$  and  $R''$ , which may be identical or different, represent a hydrogen atom, a lower alkyl radical, a mono- or polyhydroxyalkyl radical, an optionally substituted aryl radical or an amino acid or sugar residue, or alternatively, taken together form a heterocycle,

a salt thereof or an optical or geometrical isomer thereof.

13. A compound according to Claim 12, selected from the group consisting of alkali metal, alkaline-earth metal, zinc and organic amine salts.

14. A compound according to Claim 12, selected from the group consisting of:

-5-(3-tert-Butyl-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-thiophene- acrylic acid,

-5-(3-tert-Butyl-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-thiophene-propionic acid,

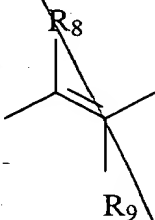
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-2-(3tert-Butyl-4-methoxyphenyl)-4-thiophene-acrylic acid,  
-4-(3-tert-Butyl-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-thiophene-acrylic acid,  
-5-(3,5,5,8,8-Pentamethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthyl)-2-thiopheneacrylic  
acid,  
-4-(3,5,5,8,8-Pentamethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthyl)-2-thiopheneacrylic  
acid,  
-4-(5-6,7,8-Tetrahydro-5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-2-naphthyl)-2-thiopheneacrylic acid,  
-5-(3,5,5,8,8-Pentamethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthyl)-2-thiophenepropiolic  
acid,  
- N-Methyl-4-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5,5,8,8-tetramethyl -2-naphthyl)-2-  
pyrroleacrylic acid,  
- N-Methyl-4-(3,5,5,8,8-pentamethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthyl)-2-  
pyrroleacrylic acid,  
- 4-(3,5,5,8,8-Pentamethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthyl)-2-pyrroleacrylic acid,  
- 3-(4,4,7-Trimethylthiochroman-6-yl)-phenylacrylic acid,  
- 5-(3,5,5,8,8-Pentamethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthyl)-3-pyridineacrylic acid,  
and  
- 6-(3,5,5,8,8-Pentamethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthyl) -2-pyridineacrylic  
acid.

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15. A compound according to Claim 12, having at least one of the following groups:

- R<sub>1</sub> represents the radical -COR<sub>6</sub>;
- Ar represents a radical of formula (a) or (d);
- X represents the radical:



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- R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub>, taken together, form with the adjacent aromatic ring a 5- or 6-membered ring, optionally substituted with methyl groups and/or optionally interrupted by an oxygen or sulfur atom.

16. A compound according to Claim 12, suitable for use as a medicinal product for the treatment of dermatological complaints associated with a keratinization disorder which has an effect on differentiation and on proliferation.

17. A compound according to Claim 12, which is suitable for use as a medicinal agent for treatment of insulin dependent diabetes.

18. A compound according to Claim 12, which is suitable for treatment of or inhibition of symptoms leading to a condition selected from the group consisting of common acne, comedones, polymorphonuclear leukocytes, rosacea, nodulocystic acne, acne conglobata, senile acne, secondary acne, ichthyosis, ichthyosiform states, Darier's disease, palmoplantar keratoderma, leucoplasias, leucoplasiform states, cutaneous or mucous (buccal) lichen, dermatological complaints associated with a keratinization disorder with an inflammatory and/or immunoallergic component, psoriasis, psoriatic rheumatism, cutaneous atopy, eczema, respiratory atopy, gingival hypertrophy, benign or malignant inflammatory complaints which show no keratinization disorder, dermal or epidermal hyperproliferations, common warts, flat warts and verruciform epidermodysplasia, basocellular and spinocellular epithelioma, bullosis, collagen diseases, ophthalmological disorders, aging of the skin, actinic keratoses and pigmentations, pathologies associated with chronological or actinic ageing, stigmata of epidermal and/or dermal atrophy cicatrization disorders, vibices, cicatrization, disorders of sebaceous function, hyperseborrhoea, simple seborrhoea, cancerous and precancerous states, promyelocytary leukemia, arthritis, alopecia, dermatological complaints having an immunological component, arteriosclerosis, hypertension, insulin-independent diabetes, and skin disorders caused by exposure to UV radiation.

19. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound according to Claim 12 in a pharmaceutically acceptable support.

20. The composition of Claim 19, wherein the concentration of the at least one compound is between 0.002% and 5% by weight of the pharmaceutical composition.

21. A cosmetic composition comprising at least one compound according to Claim 12 in a cosmetically acceptable support.

22. The composition of Claim 21, wherein the concentration of the at least one compound is between 0.002% and 5% by weight of the cosmetic composition.

23. The composition of Claim 21, wherein the composition is suitable for body or hair hygiene.

24. A compound according to Claim 12, wherein Ar is a radical of formula (d).



25. A compound according to Claim 24, selected from the group consisting of:

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- 5-(3-tert-Butyl-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-thiophene- acrylic acid,
  - 5-(3-tert-Butyl-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-thiophene-propionic acid,
  - 2-(3-tert-Butyl-4-methoxyphenyl)-4-thiophene-acrylic acid,
  - 4-(3-tert-Butyl-4-methoxyphenyl)-2-thiophene-acrylic acid,
  - 5-(3,5,5,8,8-Pentamethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthyl)-2-thiopheneacrylic acid,
  - 4-(3,5,5,8,8-Pentamethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthyl)-2-thiopheneacrylic acid,
  - 4-(5,6,7,8-Tetrahydro-5,5,8,8-tetramethyl-2-naphthyl)-2-thiopheneacrylic acid,
- and
- 5-(3,5,5,8,8-Pentamethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthyl)-2-thiophenepropionic acid.

26. A compound according to Claim 12, wherein Ar is a radical of formula (e).

27. A compound according to Claim 26, selected from the group consisting of :

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- N-Methyl-4-(5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-5,5,8,8-tetramethyl -2-naphthyl)-2-pyrroleacrylic acid,
  - N-Methyl-4-(3,5,5,8,8-pentamethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthyl)-2-pyrroleacrylic acid, and
  - 4-(3,5,5,8,8-Pentamethyl-5,6,7,8-tetrahydro-2-naphthyl)-2-pyrroleacrylic acid.

28. A compound according to Claim 12, wherein R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub>, taken together form with the adjacent aromatic ring a 6-membered ring substituted with methyl groups and being interrupted by an oxygen or sulfur atom.

29. A compound according to Claim 26, wherein the compound is:  
- 3-(4,4,7-Trimethylthiochroman-6-yl)-phenylacrylic acid.

30. A compound according to Claim 12, wherein R' and R'' taken together form a heterocycle.